

MS. A. 9.2. 23, 52

PAPERS

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New Bedford 10th month 17th 1847,

Dear Caroline,

Little Josey, the young Astyanax -
for future fame, often says, where's Carry Weston?
and as often as his little lips laps that good
name, Echo answers where - It is now about
a month since I acknowledged the receipt
of your and Debora's kind present, since which
I have heard naught of you whereabouts.
There is hardly an hour in the day, but what
I think of you - you are perfectly excusable
in not writing me, for I well know that you
must be engaged in some good and right
eous cause, and that you need the rest of a
leisure and rural life, to balance the
many cares and anxieties you have had
to undergo, as well as to make preparations
for your own Anti Slavery Fair at home, and
the more interesting and attractive one of Christ-
mas and New Years. Would that I could
see you oftener - you cannot tell how much
I miss your good company - Those little tête-
têtes, and just droppings in to look upon you
will ever be held in remembrance dear -
I wish Weymouth and New Bedford were nearer
distantly, they are only a respectable dis-
tance from each other - yet distance is one of
the most dreadful conditions of our imper-
fect Earthly State - In the Spirit Land no

barrier shall part hundred Spirits." I received, a very affectionate and interesting letter from Deborah in New York, about ten days since, which I duly but most unsatisfactorily must have answered, as I was very poorly at the time and scarcely able to be about. I have been much better the past week - my sickness or cold, or whatever you may call it, has entirely left me, and there is nothing the matter now excepting, I am almost wearied out - I have been working most prodigious, aye thundering hard - I have been fitting out a ship on her second cruise; she was very successful on her first voyage, in so much so that I shall send her on a longer one this season, and have her better "manned"; the name of this good ship is the "Lecture Association" - to morrow evening, a thousand strong will be aboard if not more, every man will be in his place and every gun shotted - A little long low black piratical looking craft (^{in Regard} priest craft), has challenged us to mortal combat. She cannot muster but about five hundred, though her merits have been proclaimed from the Pulpit, while we have been declared as Infidels - I cannot tell what will be their fate. They vainly thought that by reciting their vote that we would give up our Lectures, they neither published the vote, nor gave me any formal notice of it, neither had they the manners or courtesy to write any of our Lectures, I suspected this would be the case, and made

calculations accordingly - They did not find out that we were going to have another course of Lectures till two days before I advertised - They were very much surprised, and "all taken a back" to use a Doctor's phrase - They said we were obstinate, and tried to persuade me to give up, I told them it was just as fair for us to ask them to give up - When they found we would not give up, they called a Special meeting, and notwithstanding there was not a quorum, they voted informally to reduce their tickets to fifty cents same as ours, and then get their proceedings sanctioned at the regular meeting last Tuesday, but the evanescence & the subject was not brought up, neither do I think it will be - They are the obstinate ones, for they have tried to inspire us in every way, but it was no go; we sold about 600 tickets first night & shall probably sell a 1000 by tomorrow, having sold already about 200 since last lecture - The orthodoxy call us Infidels & hypocrites and Dr Babcock is going to have a singing school in his vestry on Monday evenings the night of our Lectures and says he and his daughters will attend - bah! Mr Prentiss has preached against us in his weekly meetings, but Dr Mayhew told him it was far worse for him Prentiss a professor of Religion & a minister to lecture before the Lyceum last winter, when he knew his brother man was excluded - We had the very first people in town and shall have them, let ^{day} them try even so hard to inspire us - On the

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I advertised our Lectures, there was a Director to be chosen
for the Bedford Commercial Bank, and I was one of
the Candidates - But some whom I thought were
my friends did not vote for me and I lost my
election - this did not trouble me, but I thought
I would be up to them - I held the office of Secretary
of the Port Society, one of the most important ones, &
gave universal satisfaction - I kept quiet and
said nothing, but at the annual meeting last
Thursday I declined a reelection - then the
very ones who did not vote for me for Director
came & tried to persuade me to continue in office
It was no use, & I left them to their disappointment -
Others may take care of the Port Society - I
shall concentrate my little strength in behalf
of the cause of Humanity, cheerfully & willingly
Rev Mr Thross has preached two Sundays for us
and will preach the next two Sundays - he is
a very fine fellow - he stays with me - he preached
a Rec Hot Abolition Sermon last Sunday morn
which gave universal satisfaction - Mr Robeson
says he shall certainly go to Church when he preaches
he has been every time yet so has Deacon Emerson -
think he has more talent & ^{than} Turness - Please keep it secret,
I think there is not much doubt but that they
will settle him - don't tell this - The Conservatives are all
for him & we Abolitionist keep still as we do not wish
to put any hindrances in the way - Don't laugh, when I tell you
I am going to the Unitarian Convention in Salem on Tuesday - I
may return by Newmouth & will explain myself to you - Yrs truly John Ricker